Vacancies of Judges in Andhra Pradesh High Court

1189. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the sanctioned strength of Judges in Andhra Pradesh High Court as on date and since when;

(b) the reasons for the vacancies;

(c) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the strength of Judges in the High Court further to eliminate pendency of cases therein; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (e) Against the approved strength of 39 Additional/permanent Judges in the Andhra Pradesh High Court, 34 Judges are in position, leaving 5 vacancies to be filled up. These vacancies have occurred on the retirement of Judges.

The filling up of vacancies of Judges in the High Courts is a continuous, consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies to keep on arising on account of retirement or elevation of Judges as Chief Justice of High Court/Judges of the Supreme Court.

The Government reviews the Judge strength of High Courts periodically every three years. The increase in the Judge strength of a High Court is considered only when the average rate of disposal of main cases in the concerned High Court is above the national average.

Pending rape case in courts

†1190. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases relating to rape which are pending in various courts in the country;

(b) the duration of pendency of the said rape cases;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.